

FEBRUARY 2021



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FEATURED ARTICLE: February is Black History Month

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FEATURED PROGRAM: March 19, 2021

2021 Annual Joint Family Law Program



News

President's Report



LYNDA TROUP President

What's New

EDUCATION CENTRE: *Practice Resource Materials*

Practice Area Fundamentals:

Criminal Law Corporate and Commercial Real Estate *More still to come!*

New to the practice area or simply want a refresher? These resource materials are a great place to start. If you are like me, you are hopeful for a much brighter and better year in 2021. However, 2021, as life does, will pose its own challenges. In my first report to you as president, I spoke about the need for health and wellness and the efforts the Law Society was making to address this important issue for lawyers. Mental health in particular continues to be a struggle for many lawyers and important work needs to be done in this area. I will report on the work of our Health and Wellness Committee in my last report as president.

For now, let me remind us that it's important to take care of ourselves and to encourage our colleagues to do the same. It is very easy to get into a pattern of working late, drinking regularly, staying up too late watching Netflix and skipping (or not even planning) workouts. Combine the lifestyle with the stress of being a lawyer, as well as other life stressors, and depression, general unhappiness or being unwell often follow. While much of what happens in 2021 will remain out of our hands, it's a great year to make some personal changes. I encourage you all to leave work a little earlier, drink a little less often, sleep more and get that workout in – I promise to try as well. If you are struggling, even a little, please reach out to a friend, colleague or the Law Society.

Certainly a bright spot for me for 2021 will be working with our new CEO, Leah Kosokowsky. Leah started at the Law Society in 1999 as counsel in the Complaints Resolution Department. Most recently she was the Director of Regulation and has been integral to the operations of the Law Society since being placed into that role. Leah's can-do attitude is infectious and she will make a fantastic leader. Leah, thank you for your contributions to date and I wish you all the best as you start in your new role.



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ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CEO Leah Kosokowsky



The benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba are pleased to announce the appointment of **Leah Kosokowsky** as Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society effective January 18, 2021.

Leah was called to the bar in 1991. She practised civil and commercial litigation before joining the Law Society Discipline Department in 1999. From 2002 to 2015, Leah was the Director of the Complaints Resolution Department before becoming the Director of Regulation.

News

CEO Report



LEAH KOSOKOWSKY Chief Executive Officer

A number of committees reported to the benchers on the progress of their initiatives. The benchers met virtually on December 21, 2020 for the last meeting of the calendar year. At the outset of the meeting, the benchers were pleased to welcome **Bradley Regher**, the President of the Canadian Bar Association. Brad not only is a Manitoba lawyer, he is also the first Indigenous President of the CBA, an accomplishment for which we are all enormously proud. Brad shared with the benchers his agenda for his presidential year which is focused on the cultural competency of Canadian lawyers and advancing equity and diversity in the legal profession.

For their regular business, the benchers approved of amendments to the Reimbursement Payment Guidelines and received a report from the Reimbursement Committee on the payment of reimbursement claims.

A number of committees reported to the benchers on the progress of their initiatives. The President's Special Committee on Health and Wellness provided an update on the Diversion Program that is being developed for lawyers who are in the complaints and discipline stream due to substance abuse or mental health disorders.

The President's Special Committee on Regulating Legal Entities reported on progress that had been made by other Canadian law societies with respect to broadening the scope of legal services that may be undertaken by service providers who are not licensed to practise law, within a structured or monitored environment. The benchers also agreed with the proposal that the Law Society undertake a formal consultation with the profession and other stakeholders with respect to a potential range of services that limited practitioners might provide to the public in the area of family law, either independently or under the supervision of a lawyer. This consultation is underway with the deadline having been January 31, 2021 to receive submissions.

Finally, before adjourning to join the members of the Manitoba Bar Association for the annual joint meeting, the benchers paid tribute to and bade a fond farewell to our outgoing CEO, **Kris Dangerfield** who has decided to join her husband, Tony, in their well-deserved retirement.



News

Where One Door Closes

LEAH KOSOKOWSKY, Chief Executive Officer



Kris Dangerfield has had an enormous effect on my legal career and with her recent retirement, she has influenced it yet again.

As an articling student and young lawyer at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman, I had the good fortune to work with and be mentored by many remarkable women, including Kris. When Kris was seconded to the Law Society to conduct their discipline hearings, they loved her so much, that they asked her to join the Law Society staff and it was only a year or so later, that Kris persuaded me to apply for an opening in the Discipline Department.

With that, I once again had the opportunity to work with and learn from Kris. Regulating in the public interest is challenging work, particularly in the area of lawyer discipline. However, Kris always approached this work, whether as hearing counsel, general counsel or chief executive officer, with kindness, compassion and humility.

Under her leadership, Law Society staff members have learned from her example and we all strive for excellence in regulation while treating the public and the profession with respect and dignity.

With Kris' retirement, I have yet another opportunity to carry on the legacy of excellence that she has built, following the enormous contributions of former CEOs, Allan Fineblit, Deborah McCawley and Graeme Garson before her. I will miss her tremendously, as will all of us at the Law Society, but will strive to fill her enormous (and always beautiful) shoes.



Congratulations to **Karen Sawatzky** and **George Roy** at the Manitoba Law Library who are the recipients of a prestigious Clawbie (Canadian Law Blog) Award for Great LEXpectations in the category of Best Library Resources. If you haven't done so, you will want to check out the Law Society of Manitoba's Great Library blog. AS noted by The Clawbies, it is an invaluable current awareness tool for Manitoba legal professionals. To subscribe, visit <u>lawlibrary.ca</u>.

We have lost yet another valuable Complaints Investigation Committee member with the appointment of **Elliot Leven** to the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, General Division in the City of Brandon.

December saw not only the retirement of **Kris Dangerfield**, but also our amazing program counsel, **Vivian Hilder**. In addition, our enormously creative multi-media coordinator **Leslie Supnet** was recruited for an amazing opportunity which she could not turn down.

With some departures come new arrivals and the Continuing Professional Development Department is pleased to welcome **Clayton McKnight** (learning solutions designer) and **Mike Morier** (multi-media coordinator) who both started in early January 2021.

Although the Government of Manitoba is cautiously re-opening the Province, our staff are continuing to work remotely. They are available to respond to any inquiries by phone and email.

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Important Dates to Note

FEBRUARY 11 BENCHER MEETING 12:30 p.m.

2021

MARCH 1 PAYMENT DUE Professional Liability Claims Fund Contribution (3rd instalment)

MARCH 19 ANNUAL JOINT FAMILY LAW PROGRAM

MARCH 22 FIRM PROFILE DEADLINE by 4:00 p.m. for 2022-2023 Articling Recruitment

APRIL 1 FILING DEADLINE 2021 Annual Member Report

APRIL 1 FILING DEADLINE 2021 Mandatory Continuing Prof. Development (MCPD) Report

APRIL 1 RENEWAL DEADLINE Law Corporation Permit

APRIL 2 PAYMENT DUE 2021/22 Practising Fees APRIL15 BENCHER MEETING 12:30 p.m.

APRIL23 ISRAEL'S PRIZE APPLICATION DEADLINE for PREP students (June intake)

MAY 20 BENCHER MEETING 12:30p.m.

JUNE 7 to JUNE 15 FIRM INTERVIEW PERIOD for 2022-2023 Articling Recruitment

JUNE 18 PAYMENT DUE 2021/22 Practising Fee & Insurance for students being called to the Bar on June 24, 2021

JUNE 17 ANNUAL MEETING and BENCHER MEETING 12:30 p.m.

JUNE 24 (Tentative) CALL TO THE BAR 9:00 a.m.

JULY 2 PAYMENT DUE Professional Liability Claims Fund Contribution (or first instalment)

Education

June 2020 PREP Students

PREP Virtual Firms

Family Law and Real Estate virtual firm January 31 to March 7, 2021

Students will have assignments and activities due every day or two for the first few weeks.

Capstone Assessment

Week of March 15, 2021 or Week of March 22, 2021

Students will be involved in daily activities during which they will be assessed to determine if they have the competence equivalent to an entry level lawyer. They are expected to participate in the activities scheduled for full days during each of those weeks. PREP students will not be available to conduct any office work during the Capstone week in which they are participating. **Results will be issued in late May or early June.**

December 2020 PREP Students





Manitoba Articling Recruitment Guidelines

The guidelines for the process to be followed for the recruitment of articling students within the City of Winnipeg for the 2022-2023 articling period are now posted on the Law Society <u>website</u>. Here is a summary of the important dates:

Monday,	Friday,	Interview	Earliest Offer
March 22, 2021	May 14, 2021	Period	Dates
Firm Profiles due – please send to both the Faculty of Law, Career Development Office, via email: <u>lisa.griffin@umanitoba.ca</u> (phone: 204-474-7932 and the Law Society of Manitoba, via email: <u>lehnes@</u> <u>lawsociety.mb.ca</u> (phone: 204-926- 2042)	Application deadline for students to submit their resumes, transcripts and cover letters directly to the employers	Monday, June 7 to Tuesday, June 15, 2021	Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 2 p.m.



Communication of Results

Once an offer has been accepted, the student and the employer must immediately advise both:

- **1.** Lisa Griffin, Career Development, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law by email <u>lisa.griffin@umanitoba.ca</u> or phone: 204-474-7932; and
- 2. Lisa Ehnes, Law Society of Manitoba by email: <u>lehnes@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> or phone: 204-926-2042

FEATURE

February is Black History Month And I am Thinking About it Differently This Year



ALISSA SCHACTER Equity Officer and Policy Counsel

... slavery was legal in Canada for approximately 200 years and thousands of Black and Indigenous people were enslaved until the British Parliament abolished slavery throughout the colonies in 1883 ... During the swell of Black Lives Matter protests this summer, I realized I did not truly understand what it means to be Black in Canada in the 21st Century. I had not appreciated how pervasive and deeply embedded anti-Black racism is in our culture, media, systems, and institutions. I now see this blind spot as a symptom of my White privilege.

I had read Ta-nehisi Coates' memoir in the form of a searing letter to his 15 year old son, Between the World and Me in which he talks about the visceral brutality of being Black in America, as well as many other accounts of the racial divide in the U.S. But things were better in Canada, or so I thought. While we have our unique history, Canada shares the sullied legacy of slavery, segregation and discrimination against Black people. In recent years, there has been increased discussion and awareness of the overt and systemic racism Indigenous people face in Canada, but it is only in recent months that we have begun to widely grapple with the racism faced by Black people.

Although not highly publicized, in 2016, the United Nations' Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights confirmed that anti-Black racism in Canada is systemic. It highlighted enormous racial inequities in income, housing, child welfare rates, access to quality education and healthcare and the application of drug laws.

Systemic racism manifests in the legal profession too. The Globe and Mail examined the issue in the article '<u>Why</u> <u>Are There Still So Few Black Lawyers on</u> Bay Street' published in July 2020. It chronicles the paucity of Black lawyers on Bay Street and reports on the experiences of the few who do make it, including "drawing scathing rebukes for minor errors that White colleagues don't seem to face; being mistaken for an assistant rather than a litigator; enduring comments about their hair and clothing, or blatant accusations of tokenism; being ignored in a circle of White colleagues, and left out of after-work drinks and client meetings."

There is a void in high school curriculums when it comes to Black history. I was not taught that slavery was legal in Canada for approximately 200 years and that thousands of Black and Indigenous people were enslaved until the British Parliament abolished slavery throughout the colonies in 1883; nor did I learn that segregated and unequal schooling was practised in parts of Canada until the late 20th Century.

Over thirty years later, neither of my children were taught about this in school either.

In her book <u>Policing Black Lives</u>, Robyn Maynard summarizes research showing that at the time of the transatlantic slave trade, the social construct of blackness was created to justify enslaving blacks. Black people were not thought of as fully human but as commodities who possessed a limited ability to feel pain and were represented as animalistic, hypersexual and dangerous. Despite the abolition of slavery, the meanings that had been ascribed to Blackness persist to this day, as Black people continue

FEATURE

to be unjustly associated with criminality and danger*.

Discrimination assumes many guises. As Canadians we like to believe we are a tolerant, multicultural society, in which those who work hard can succeed. That is the Canada that some of us are privileged enough to live in. We have work to do to make it the reality for all Canadians, particularly those who are Black, Indigenous and members of other marginalized groups.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the significant contributions and accomplishments of Black Canadians in all aspects of life in this country. Personally I have also committed to continuing to educate myself about the many ways systemic racism appears and what steps I can take to help make change.

Link to this Anti-Racist Checklist as a starting point for personal reflection.



* Maynard, Robyn (2017). Policing Black Lives. Fernwood Publishing. p.9



Membership Changes



Practising to Non-Practising:

December 1, 2020 December 14, 2020 December 14, 2020 December 31, 2020 January 2, 2021 Kristal A. Bayes-McDonald Luis D. Zubizarreta Prieto Elliot H. Leven Phillip Sieklicki John L.P. Sinclair

Inactive to Practising:

December 1,, 2020
December 15, 2020
January 4, 2021
January 4, 2021
January 7, 2021
January 8, 2021

Kira A.P. Petersson-Martin Marni A. Yasumatsu Jack G.H. Burke-Gaffney Samuel Levkov Jean-Rene D.J. Kwilu Muyumbu Jana Barak

Non-Practising to Practising:

December 14, 2020 January 1, 2021 January 11, 2021 January 18, 2021 Kevin J. Clayton Muhammad Abrar Cathy V. Bator Larissa L. Benham

Practising to Inactive:

November 30, 2020 December 3, 2020 December 13, 2020 December 15, 2020 December 19, 2020 December 31, 2020 January 9, 2021 Lorne B. Giesbrecht Denby L. McLean L. Kim Antonio Kenneth R. Carroll P. Vivian Hilder Marta J. Smith Sharon E. Kravetsky Jeff B. McConnell Jim M. Stoffman Erin J. Coyne Martin G. Tadman Blaine M. Hancock

New Admissions:

Update your membership information by using the <u>Member Forms</u> located in the For Lawyers, Membership Services section of the Law Society's website.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Hucal, who passed away on October 30, 2020 at the age of 82. Mr. Hucal received his call to the Bar on September 23, 1963. He practised with the firm Monk Goodwin LLP for his entire career, a total of 57 years. In 2013 he was recognized by the Law Society for having practised law for 50 years.

Laureen Ann Yee-Wen Lu, who passed away on October 31, 2020 at the age of 54. Ms Lu received her call to the Bar on June 25, 1992. She practised with Fillmore Riley for one year before joining Levene Tadman Gutkin Golub. In 2002 Ms Lu joined LF Legal Services where she practised up to the date of her death.

Michael Skwark, Q.C., who passed away on November 9, 2020 at the age of 89. Mr. Skwark received his call to the Bar in Manitoba on September 22, 1958 and in Ontario on June 25, 1959. He practised with several Winnipeg firms throughout his career, including Skwark Myers Weinberg Kussin Weinstein Bryk, Pitblado & Hoskin, Krawchuk & Co. and Fillmore Riley. Mr. Skwark practised as a sole practitioner from 2001 up to the date of his retirement in 2009. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1976 and in 2009 he was recognized by the Law Society for having practised law for 50 years.



The next regular meeting of the benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba will be held on:

Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 12:30 p.m via videoconference. The dates of future meetings of the benchers are as follows:

- Thursday, April 15, 2021
- Thursday, May 20, 2021
- Thursday, June 17, 2021

Members of the Society are encouraged to attend and participate in the deliberations of the governing body.

If you wish to attend a meeting, please contact Pat Bourbonnais at <u>pbourbonnais@lawsocity.mb.ca</u>.

Agenda and meeting minutes are published on the website <u>here</u>.





NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

CAROLINE B. CRAMER, Q.C. will be retiring and withdrawing from the practice of law effective February 14, 2021.

Effective December 7, 2020, **CAROLINE B. CRAMER, Q.C.** and **C. BARRETT-CRAMER LAW CORPORATION** will no longer be accepting new client matters or files through law firms of **BROTMAN & CRAMER** and **ESTATE ATTORNEYS OF MANITOBA** or otherwise.

December 14, 2020.

Kristin Dangerfield Chief Executive Officer

Issued: December 14, 2020



Annual Member Report Due April 1, 2021

Complete Online

This year's Annual Member Report is now available in the <u>Member's Portal</u> and is due April 1, 2021. It combines your annual report on your continuing professional development activities in 2020 and your Law Corporation renewal (for those that have them). For trust account supervisors, there are additional reporting requirements. This report must be filed by every lawyer who had practising status in Manitoba at any time in 2020.

Completing and submitting this report is mandatory. If you have provided us with your business email address, then you should have already received notification by email that your personalized online report is ready for completion. The email notification would also have contained your user ID and login instructions on how to access the Member's Portal for easy completion and filing of the report. If you have not received your email notification but believe you should have, then please contact Donna Mihalick at <u>dmihalick@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> or by phone at 204-926-2050. If you have not provided the Law Society with your business email address, please do so immediately.



Resources

GREAT LEXPECTATIONS

KAREN SAWATZKY, Director - Legal Resources

The numbers are going down. As I write this mid-January, I'm hopeful that they will continue that way so we can reopen the library (to members only) in February. Please check our <u>website</u> for current information. In the right hand navigation pane, we are keeping our operating hours updated.

I'd like to remind members that we can share our WestlawNext Canada subscription on a limited basis. We can give you a one week subscription to CriminalSource, Estates&TrustsSource, FamilySource and parts of Litigator for use in your own office. Email <u>library@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> to request a registration key.



One of my favourite databases is HeinOnline. org. Whether searching for legal articles or legislation, it's one of my first choices. I also subscribe to their blog for valuable tips on using their service. We repost some of these tips on our own blog. HeinOnline has historical legislation going all the way back to Confederation, and 1871 when Manitoba joined. HeinOnline is available for all members by signing in to the Member's Portal and selecting "Library Resources" from the left hand navigation pane. Check our guide for instructions on how to find it as well as other legal research tools. Further to legislation research, you may also want to review our guide on searching Hansard (Manitoba edition).

Great Library Hours

Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For assistance, please continue to contact us by phone 204-945-1958 or email at <u>library@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> as much as possible.



Resources

THE CLAWBIES

Congratulations to **Karen Sawatzky** and **George Roy** who won a Clawbie for Best Library Resources Blog! This is a big deal. The Clawbies honour the top Canadian Legal blogs and the winners are a very elite group.

Here's how the Canadian Law Blogs award panel describe Great LEXpectations:

The Law Society of Manitoba's Great Library blog is a onestop shop for court notices & practice directions, library news & resources, substantive law updates, legislation, legal research tips and local legal community blog posts. An invaluable current awareness tool for Manitoba legal professionals.



2020 Award Winner Clawbies

The Canadian Law Blog Awards, a.k.a. the Clawbies, are a project started in 2006 with the goal of highlighting great blogs published by the Canadian legal industry. The Clawbies celebrate free online Canadian legal content.

www.clawbies.ca

Resources

More Practice Resources added to the Law Society Education Centre!



Check out these newly added topics:

Practice Management

These resources relate to running your practice and the business of a law firm.

File Closing, Retention, Storage and Destruction

and

Withdrawal of Legal Services

Our library of <u>Practice Resources</u> continues to grow!

Our collection of resources is designed to support all Manitoba lawyers in their practice. They have been developed particularily with solo and small firm practitioners in mind.

You will find procedural guidance, case law, precedents and forms with the ease of hyperlinked references in numerous topic areas. And they are conveniently available free of charge.

> Visit the Law Society <u>Education Centre</u> and check them all out!

Education Centre Calendar of Events

2021 Annual Joint Family Law Program

The Times They are STILL a Changin'

March 19, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Video Webinar

Jointly presented by the Law Society of Manitoba The Court of Queen's Bench Family Division Judges and The Manitoba Bar Association, Family Law Section

When we last gathered for this program in 2019, the practice of family law in Manitoba had undergone significant legislative and procedural change and there was still more change to come. Hence the program title, and theme, "The Times They are a Changin' ". After a hiatus in 2020, the Joint Family Law Program is back and guess what ... the times they are STILL a changin'.

This year's program offers presentations that will assist you in navigating the ongoing changes and challenges of family law practice, not to mention the profound impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on all of us. You will receive practical advice and inspiration from an esteemed group of speakers.

Out of Town Speakers include:

Professor Nicholas Bala, Faculty of Law, *Queen's University* Andrew Freedman, CA, CA-IFA, CBV, ASA, *Duff & Phelps, Toronto* Marie L. Gordon, AOE, QC, *Bruyer & Mackay LLP, Edmonton* Lorne H. Wolfson, *Torkin Manes LLP, Toronto*

Local Speakers include:

The Honourable Madam Justice Freda M. Steel, *Manitoba Court of Appeal* The Honourable Mr. Justice Frank Aquila, *Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench (Family Division)* Janet Sigurdson, *Justice Manitoba, Legal Services Branch, Family Law Section* Kris J. Janovcik, *Tapper Cuddy LLP*

Details and Registration

Save the Date

Trauma Informed Lawyering		March 25, 2021
Show Me the	Money (Collections Law)	
Program 1	Secured party remedies - receiverships Bankruptcy	April 22, 2021
Program 2	Commercial landlord-tenant issues Pre-judgment and post-judgment collection remedies	May 19, 2021

Reminder!

MARCH 1, 2021

Members paying the

2020-2021 Professional Liability Claims Fund Contribution

are reminded that the 3rd and final instalment is due on or before March 1, 2021

(Check your email - a reminder was sent out on February 1st)

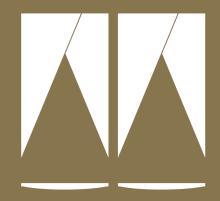
FEE RENEWAL



2021-2022 Practising Fees

DUE DATE: April 1, 2021

Watch for an email on March 1st with instructions on the retrieval of your personalized invoice in the Member's Portal!



PRESIDENT Lynda Troup

VICE PRESIDENT Grant Driedger

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Leah Kosokowsky

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Office Hours

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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